

05/31/2009

Appl. No. 10/716,580

Amdt. dated May 26, 2009

Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure

Examining Group 1647

PATENT

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A vector for the expression of immunoglobulin-cytokine fusion proteins in malignant B cells, comprising the following components operably linked to each other

(a) a continuous region of at least 1.5 kb which is homologous to an at least 1.5 kb segment of the  $\mu$  intron or the  $k$  intron;

(b) at least one DNA sequence encoding a constant region of an immunoglobulin or a part of the constant region;

(c) a DNA sequence encoding a cytokine; and

(d) a marker gene which is selectable in eukaryotic B cells and contains a functional enhancer region.

2. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 1, wherein said continuous region of at least 1.5 kb contains a functional  $C_\mu$  or  $C_k$  enhancer.

3. (Currently amended) The vector according to claim 1, wherein said continuous region of at least 1.5 kb contains a non-functional  $C_\mu$  or  $C_k$  enhancer.

4. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the marker gene selectable in eukaryotic B cells contains a non-functional enhancer.

5. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the marker gene selectable in eukaryotic B cells lacks an enhancer.

6. (Canceled)

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7. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the region homologous to a region comprising the  $C_\mu$  or the  $C_k$  enhancer of the  $\mu$  or the  $k$  intron comprises at least 1.9 kb.

8. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the region homologous to a region comprising the  $C_\mu$  or the  $C_k$  enhancer of the  $\mu$  or the  $k$  intron comprises at least 2.0 kb.

9. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, said vector containing a regulatory unit which is compatible with bacteria.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence of (b) encodes the constant region of a human immunoglobulin.

12. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence of (b) encodes the constant region of a mouse, rat, goat, horse or sheep immunoglobulin.

13. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence of (b) encodes the constant region of a secretory antibody.

14. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the DNA sequence according to (b) encodes the constant region of a membrane-bound antibody.

15. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, characterized in that said DNA sequence of (c) encodes an interleukin, an interferon, a colony-stimulating factor, a lymphokine, or a growth factor.

16. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 15, characterized in that said DNA sequence of (c) encodes IL-2, IL-4, IL-7, IL-12, IL-13, GM-CSF or interferon  $\gamma$ .

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17. (Previously presented) The vector according to claim 1, wherein the selectable marker gene is gpt, neo, or a marker gene encoding hygromycin resistance.

18-28. (Canceled)

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29. ~~(Previously Presented)~~ ~~(Withdrawn)~~ A malignant B cell containing a vector according to claim 1 in integrated form, wherein an immunoglobulin-cytokine fusion protein is expressed by said cell.

30. (Canceled)